

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

01-241

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

MAY 7, 2001

Approval of permits for beer sales by Embassy Suites at Gray's Lake Park for June 28, 2001 (Nitefall on the River Concert) and July 15, 2001 (Jet Ski Races).

SUBJECT:

FISCAL IMPACT -

BEER SALES
PERMITS BY
EMBASSY SUITES
AT GRAY'S LAKE
PARK

Percentage of gross sales of food and beverage and sponsorships to meet expenses of event.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

On April 24, 2001, the Park and Recreation Board approved the sale of beer at Gray's Lake Park for a Nitefall on the River Concert on June 28, 2001, and a Jet Ski Race on July 15, 2001.

SUBMITTED BY:

DONALD M. TRIPP
PARK AND
RECREATION
DIRECTOR

Staff will have a co-sponsorship agreement with Embassy Suites. In the agreement, Embassy Suites will be responsible to meet all the requirements of an outdoor beer sales permit, including insurance. Embassy Suites will provide staff to check IDs and dispense beer. No glass containers will be allowed. Staff will arrange for Des Moines Police to meet the requirements for an anticipated attendance of 2,000 people. An "open-air beer garden" will be created with fencing according to the building inspection requirements and beer license requirements.

Staff recommends that the Nitefall on the River Concert, scheduled for June 28, 2001, be located at Gray's Lake Park rather than the Simon Estes Riverfront Amphitheater. This will avoid the conflict with the Amphitheater space during the setup for the Des Moines

Arts Festival on this date. Relocating the event to Gray's Lake Park will allow the Nitefall on the River concert series to continue for a ten-week season without interruption. The "Nitefall experience" will be replicated at Gray's Lake Park to the greatest extent possible. The revenue to the City is budgeted to cover event expenses.

A Jet Ski Race and Festival is planned at Gray's Lake Park on July 15, 2001. Great Plains Racing, out of Lincoln, Nebraska, is interested in holding a regional competition at Gray's Lake Park as a co-sponsor with the Park and Recreation Department.

Previously, the City Council approved a Gray's Lake Use Contract with the International Jet Sports Boating Association to host a jet ski race at Gray's Lake Park in 1996 and 1997 (Roll Call Nos. 96-1402 and 97-1924). These events were not sponsored by the City. A Park Use fee was charged to the organization, and admission fees were received by the organization. The Park was closed for public recreational use due to the event.

The 2001 event is intended to be a special event opportunity for local residents. It is a unique spectator event and will be free to attend. The Park will remain open for public recreational use. The lake will be closed to public use during the hours for the race, or from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The boat rental operation will not be open.

Terms of the co-sponsorship agreement will assign responsibility for all race-related operations to Great Plains Racing. Park and Recreation staff will be responsible for enhancements to the event, such as: inflatables, kiddie rides, food and beverage vendors, and a concert to create a festival atmosphere for families. Revenue from food and beverage sales and sponsorships of special events is a projected revenue source for Gray's Lake operating costs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-2002.

The event will require acknowledgement by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as to use by motorized watercraft in Gray's Lake. John Olson, from IDNR, has advised staff that we should not anticipate any serious water quality impacts (e.g., fish kill or waterborne illness), either on a short-term or long-term basis, due to the uncombusted fuel discharge by jet skis during a one-day race. The lake may experience an oil sheen on the water surface that should dissipate within a few days to a week. In previous events, no concerns were expressed by citizens as to environmental problems associated with this event.
